Expansion of Air Services to Gujarat

1377. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) since when the Indian Airlines, Mumbai-Rajkot flights are discontinued;

(b) the reasons for closing down Mumbai-Bhuj and Mumbai-Bhavnagar flights also;

(c) whether it is a fact that demand to start Rajkot-Surat-Delhi flight was made in the past; and

(d) whether Government are considering to introduce such flights in Gujarat connecting Porbandar-Rajkot, Bhavnagar to Mumbai and Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Alliance Air has temporarily discontinued its operations on the Mumbai-Rajkot route with effect from 5th August, 2005.

(b) Due to inadequate load, operations between Mumbai and Bhuj were closed down. Operations between Mumbai and Bhavnagar were closed down due to operating crew constraints.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Alliance Air has plans to operate ATR-42 services on the Mumbai-Rajkot-Mumbai-Sector on daily basis. Operations on the Bhavnagar-Mumbai sector could start only after operating crew resource position of Alliance Air improves. As regards Porbandar, Jet Airways links Porbandar with Mumbai on 6 days of the week. Presently, Indian Airlines has no plans to connect Porbandar and Bhavnagar or Rajkot to Delhi with direct service due to low traffic potential.

Contracts for snack bar at Airports

1378. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for awarding contracts for snack bar outlets in Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi;